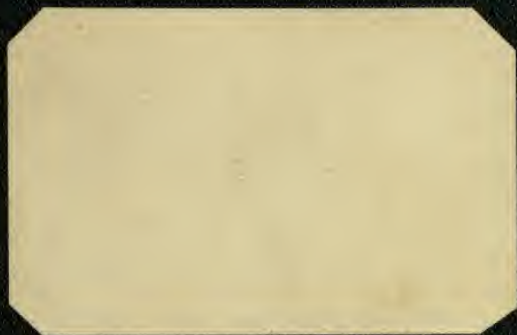


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Sketch of the Military Service

of

Major General






Wager Swayne,

by

Major General

Grenville M. Dodge.

Delivered at meeting of the New York Commandery of
Loyal Legion, February 4th, 1903.





SKETCH OF THE MILITARY SERVICE

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Major General WAGER SWAYNE,

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Wager Swayne



MR. COMMANDER AND COMPANIONS :

My paper on our distinguished deceased commander and companion, General Wager Swayne, is devoted to his services in the Civil War, and, as his commander for two years, it is not only a duty but a pleasure to make of record his gallant services, and pay my tribute to the memory of my comrade and devoted friend.

General Wager Swayne entered the service of the United States as Major of the Forty-third Ohio Infantry, August 31st, 1861, at the age of twenty-seven years. He devoted his time from his entrance to the service until February 1st, 1862, at Camp Andrews, Mount Vernon, Ohio, and other places in the State, in the recruiting and organizing of this regiment.

He was made Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment on December 14, 1861. The regiment took the field on the 21st of February, 1862, its Colonel being J. L. Kirby Smith. They reported to Brigadier General John Pope, commanding the District of Mississippi, on the 26th of February. The regiment was at once assigned to the Ohio Brigade, composed of the Twenty-seventh, Thirty-ninth, Forty-third and Sixty-third Ohio regiments, being the Second Brigade of the First Division, Army of the Mississippi. It was but a few days before the regiment took part in General Pope's campaign against New Madrid and Island No. 10. General D. S. Stanley was its division commander. In the campaign down the Mississippi

the regiment took part in taking of New Madrid, Island No. 10, Pleasant Point and Tottenville. The regiment under Lieut. Colonel Swayne, in a very daring reconnoissance, entered the outskirts of New Madrid, a point on the river that was occupied by the Confederate forces, and controlled by the gunboats. It bore a prominent part in the bombardment and capture of this town on March 13th and 14th, 1862, in which the losses of the regiment were quite severe.

On April 6th the regiment went aboard the Carondolet and made a reconnoissance below New Madrid to Tottenville, some 17 miles, when Point Pleasant was taken.

On April 27th the command crossed the Mississippi River and took possession of the west bank, and took part in the capture of the forces of General McCall at Tiptonville, Tennessee, and in the capture of Fort Pillow, which General Halleck ordered abandoned in order that General Pope's army might assist in the operations against Corinth, Mississippi.

After the battle of Shiloh, General Pope's command was moved from the Mississippi River, and landed at Hamburg, Tennessee, April 22nd, and took part for fifty days in a gradual approach to Corinth. During all that time Lieut. Colonel Swayne was in command of the regiment, and took part in the actions of the 8th, 9th and 20th of May, its Colonel, J. L. Kirby Smith, being in command of the brigade. After the surrender of Corinth the regiment lay in camp at Clear Creek, Mississippi until the 20th of August, when the campaign of VanDorn and Price was made into Northern Mississippi. At the battle of Iuka, General Stanley's Divi-

ion, of which Colonel Swayne's regiment was a part, was in the reserve, and the next morning after the battle took possession of the town.

On October 4th, 1862, at the second battle of Corinth, the 43rd Ohio, Colonel J. L. Kirby Smith commanding, was placed to support batteries Williams and Robinette, the key to the position on the west approach to Corinth. Early in the morning the enemy opened up with artillery about three hundred yards in front, and shortly after 10 A. M., led by Colonel Rogers of the 2nd Texas, moved forward to assault. The opposing forces were but a few feet apart, and fought almost hand to hand, and men went down on both sides in great numbers. At the first assault Colonel Smith fell mortally wounded, and Adjutant Hyles and Captain Spangler were killed at the same moment. The command of the regiment fell to Lieut. Colonel Swayne, who at once, under a withering fire, changed front without confusion, a movement that would have severely tried the metal and steadiness of any regiment that ever saw a battle field and, together with the Sixty-third Ohio, he is credited with defeating the determined effort of the enemy to take forts Williams and Robinette. The regiment lost in this battle 16 killed and 75 wounded.

Colonel J. W. Fuller, commanding first brigade, second division, Army of the Mississippi, says in his report: "During the assault on the right the Forty-third Ohio was thrown into momentary disorder by the fall of their Colonel, and were rallied by the efforts of Lieut. Colonel Swayne, and the General commanding the division, D. S. Stanley, and they successfully repulsed the enemy's column, and every rebel who showed

his head above the parapet of the fort, or attempted to enter it by the embrasures, got his head shot off. Lieut. Colonel Swayne assuming command under the most trying circumstances, soon restored order to the regiment, and fought it with the utmost gallantry."

Of this battle, General D. S. Stanley, commanding the division, says: "I never expect to see a more grand sight than the battlefield presented at the moment. A brigade covered the ridge opposite to us and commenced to pour a destructive fire upon the Sixty-third, Forty-third and Twenty-seventh Ohio regiments. I repaired to the Sixty-third Ohio, and here testify to the gallantry exhibited by them until one-half their number was prostrated, and nine of the officers out of thirteenth were killed or wounded. Colonel Kirby Smith and his Adjutant, Hyles, of the Forty-third Ohio, were both shot down at the moment. A column of the enemy, gallantly led, moved down the road and planted their flag outside the ditch of the redoubt of Robinette. The two exposed regiments the Sixty-third and Forty-third Ohio, fell into temporary disorder, but arriving there myself, and bravely seconded by their officers, they were soon rallied and charged the enemy together, and the hill was won in an instant, the enemy leaving the ditch and ground covered with their dead and wounded."

Immediately after this battle October 18th, for his services and gallantry, Lieut. Colonel Swayne was made Colonel of his regiment, the Forty-third Ohio Infantry.

Under date of March 13th, 1893, Brigadier General D. S. Stanley, U. S. A. (retired), applies for the award of a medal of honor to General Swayne for extraordin-

ary bravery and coolness in handling his regiment at the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, October 4th, 1863" (1862), and submits a statement as follows:

"I certify on honor, that I was present, and in command of the Second Division of the Army of the Mississippi, at the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, on the 4th of October, 1862. That at the most critical period of that battle, when the Confederates attacked the position known as Battery Robinette, the greatest force of the assault fell upon two Ohio regiments, the Forty-third and Sixty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry; both of these regiments suffered heavy loss in killed and wounded, the brave Colonel of the Forty-third Ohio J. L. Kirby Smith had fallen, and many of the officers were killed and wounded. Just at this instant I came to the position of the Forty-third. I here found the Lieut. Colonel, Wager Swayne encouraging his men, by example and speech. The regiment was cut up so seriously that there was danger of a panic. By the coolness and bravery of Lieut. Colonel Swayne, the regiment was formed in line, changed front forward, and fought out the battle, and helped to gain a victory. The Battery Robinette had been silenced, and the gunners killed or stampeded. Lieut. Colonel Swayne coolly sent a detail to reman the guns, and by so doing assisted to complete a victory won with much bloodshed."

During the first advance from Memphis along the line of the Holly Springs and Grenada Railway towards Vicksburg by General Grant, the Forty-third Ohio was on the railway between Memphis and Corinth, guarding it. In the celebrated raid of Van Dorn to the rear of Holly Springs, and Forest crossing

the Tennessee River at Clifton, and attacking Jackson at the rear of Corinth, the Forty-third Ohio was stationed at Bolivar, the rest of the brigade, under Colonel Fuller, taking part in driving Forest across the Tennessee River at or near Clifton. At this time I was in command of the District of Corinth, and upon this attack of Forest I was ordered by General Grant to take such troops as I could gather, and take command of whatever force I could find, and drive Forest out of that country. Among the forces that I gathered up was the Ohio Brigade, the Twenty-seventh, Thirty-ninth, Forty-third and Sixty-third Ohio, a brigade that became very justly celebrated during the war. They were under the command of Colonel J. W. Fuller, and were driving Forest rapidly towards the Tennessee River. To avoid them, Forest was obliged to swim the larger part of his command across that river, losing a good many men in the operation. I found that the brigade was destitute of almost everything. They seemed to have been drifting around without anyone to look after them. They lacked clothing and equipment, and a portion of them were bare-footed. I brought them with me to Corinth, and they remained in my command until August 19th, 1864. It was about January 1st, 1863, that I first became acquainted with Colonel Swayne. In April, 1863, I received instructions from General Grant to move my forces up the Tennessee River Valley towards Decatur, into Bragg's rear, with a view of destroying the immense amount of stores at all the stations from Bear River to Decatur along the Memphis and Charleston Railway, and at the same time General Rosecrans had prepared a force of

two thousand men under Colonel Straight which was to come up the Tennessee River on boats, and join me at or near Tusculmbia, with a view to making his celebrated raid to destroy Bragg's communications south of Chattanooga. Colonel Straight came to me poorly prepared. Six hundred of his men were unmounted, and most of those who were mounted rode mules. The first day he reached me, at Eastport, he lost two hundred of his mules. I stripped my transportation and gathered together all the stock I could, but when he left me he had two hundred men still dismounted, for whom he expected to pick up the stock on the way, Forest with his command, was in my front, also Roddy and Chalmers, and I pressed forward up the Tennessee River Valley, driving them before me, making as strong a diversion as I could, until I reached Town Creek, giving Straight two days start. In this movement Colonel Swayne commanded the Forty-third Ohio, and took part in the battles at Bear River, Tusculmbia and Town Creek. At Town Creek Forest heard of Straight, who had got way south of the Tennessee Valley at Moulton, and immediately left my front with all his mounted force and followed Straight, and continually harassed and fought him until Straight was forced to surrender his command near Rome, Ga. If Straight had been properly equipped and mounted, there is no question in my mind but that his raid would have been a success. I was greatly surprised when Straight came to me to see how poorly prepared he was for such an expedition. After the destruction of the Tennessee Valley, and the immense stores Bragg had accumulated there, we returned to

Corinth, where Colonel Swayne's regiment remained until the march of Sherman's army from Memphis to Chattanooga. Colonel Swayne, in command of the Forty-third Ohio, was a part of the First Brigade commanded by Colonel J. W. Fuller, of the Fourth Division, commanded by General J. C. Vetch, of the Sixteenth Army Corps, and took part in that march up to Pulaski, Tennessee, and were posted at Prospect where they wintered and participated in the rebuilding of the railway from Nashville to Decatur. During this winter the regiment almost unanimously reenlisted. On their return from their veteran furlough, I directed Colonel J. W. Fuller, commander of the brigade, to cross the Tennessee River and capture Decatur, then occupied by the enemy. For this purpose the Sixty-third and Forty-third Ohio crossed the river in boats at daylight, surprising the enemy and capturing the town. The Forty-third Ohio remained at Decatur, and the Ohio Brigade was divided, the Forty-third, Sixty-third, Twenty-fifth Wisconsin, forming the second brigade commanded by Colonel J. W. Sprague. This brigade was in the Fourth Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps. On May 1st, 1864, the brigade moved with the rest of the command towards Chattanooga, and at Woodville was put on the cars and landed at Chattanooga on May 5th 1864. On that day the Sixteenth Army Corps took the lead of the Army of the Tennessee in the movement to the rear of Johnston's army at Resaca, and it was Swayne's regiment that at midnight on the 6th of May, captured Ship's Gap, the pass through the first range of mountains, and that opened the way for us to pass through Snake Creek Gap on

the night of the 8th, and planted us in the rear of Johnston on the railroad north of Resaca on the 9th of May. At the battle of Resaca, Swayne, with his regiment was in the support of the Fifteenth Corps, and his skirmishers were the first to enter Resaca. He moved with the army, taking part in all that long and tedious campaign, where it is said the skirmish line was never brought in, and fought at Dallas and Kennesaw Mountain, and was in the charge on the 4th day of July, at Smyrna Camp Ground, or Ruff's Mill, where his division carried the only line of works that was carried in that campaign, in the charge taking the main works in front of Hood's corps. After the army reached the Chattahoochee River, Swayne moved with the Sixteenth Corps to the extreme left, to Roswell, where that corps built a bridge across the river. Upon arriving at that place, Swayne's brigade forded the river, the bands playing national airs—a beautiful sight—and took the south shore and built a tate-de-pont, protecting the workmen upon the bridge. Upon the movement of the Army of the Tennessee across the bridge and south towards Atlanta, I selected Colonel Swayne to remain at Roswell to protect our trains, giving him the Forty-third Ohio, Sixth Illinois mounted infantry and a section of artillery. The entire supply trains of the Army of the Tennessee, were halted at that place, and Swayne was selected to take charge of them because in such matters he was very reliable, and in emergencies handled his men with good judgment. He came forward with his trains on the 22nd day of July, and reached Decatur just as Sprague's brigade was being driven through the town by the whole of the Con-

federate cavalry under General Wheeler. Before he reached Decatur, Swayne turned his trains off so as to throw them in behind the Army of the Cumberland, and thus prevented Iverson's division of Rebel cavalry from capturing them, which General Wheeler had assigned it to do, and joined Sprague in his defence of Decatur. His regiment took part in the movements around Atlanta, which were a continual battle up to August 19th, when I left that command. He took part in the movement to the rear of Atlanta, destroyed the railway near Fairbury on August 29th, and reached Jonesboro and Lovejoy Station, where on September 3rd, General Swayne in his report of the campaign says of his regiment: "After four months of labor, dangers and experience, without impairing its patriotism had exhausted its strength, it welcomed an order finally announcing the close of the campaign that had already yielded the fruition of its hopes." He also said: "A higher tribute is due to the suffering and the dead; the last sacrifice to freedom has been freely made, and wounds just less than death have been borne as brave men can. Last winter all but a fraction of the enlisted men renewed their pledge of service, knowing all its meaning. In carrying out that pledge the hard trials of war have been met freely but these only have been called to show the full honor and devotion of their act. They have shown it with their bodies and their lives—more than this cannot be written."

General Sprague, who commanded the brigade General Swayne served in during the Atlanta campaign, speaks of him thus: "To Colonel Wager Swayne, Forty-third Ohio Infantry, my profound

thanks are due and rendered for his untiring zeal and never failing gallantry throughout the long and arduous campaign. Such has been his devotion to duty, and so faithfully have they been seconded by the officers and men that at no time during the entire campaign could they be found not ready to meet the enemy."

General O. O. Howard, who commanded the Army of the Tennessee, writes as follows: "When I took command of the Army and Department of the Tennessee July 27th, 1864, Swayne had risen by promotion to the Colonelcy. He commanded his regiment and finally a brigade in campaign and battle. He was with General G. M. Dodge, Commander of the Sixteenth Corps, in the battles of July 22nd and 28th, 1864. The first is called the Battle of Atlanta and the second the Battle of Ezra Church. He is frequently mentioned by his brigade, division and corps commanders for his promptitude, bravery, energy and fidelity to duty. On the consolidation of the Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Corps, that is the portions on the front line, Swayne is found first with the Forty-third Ohio in the Seventeenth Corps, and later as the senior colonel commanding a brigade in General Mower's division."

On October 3rd, 1864, Colonel Swayne was assigned to the command of his brigade, General Fuller commanding the division. He took part in the campaign to the rear of Atlanta, when Hood made his bold movement on Sherman's communications and was checked at Altoona, and continued his march into Tennessee and was finally so signally defeated at Franklin and Nashville. This was a campaign of marching rather than fighting, and after it was over they returned to Atlanta.

In the campaign from Atlanta to Savannah, Colonel Swayne's regiment was in the Second Brigade, commanded by General Sprague of the First Division, commanded by General Joseph A. Mower, of the Seventeenth Army Corps, commanded by General Frank P. Blair. It moved out of Atlanta on November 15th and marched to Savannah, but only an occasional skirmish disturbed this picnic of the old Army of the Tennessee. After the capture of Savannah, with the rest of General Sprague's brigade the regiment held the important post of Dillon's Bridge.

After Savannah came the campaign through the Carolinas. General Swayne's regiment was in the same brigade, division and corps. On January 3rd, 1865, the Seventeenth Corps was put upon transports and taken to Beaufort, S. C., to avoid the swamps and streams that the right flank of our army would have to encounter by land, and was to join Sherman's army at Pocotaligo. This march commenced January 3rd, and Pocotaligo was reached on January 14th. As soon as the left wing of the army crossed the Savannah River, the right wing on February 1st moved to Whippy Swamp. General Mower's division of the Seventeenth Corps, of which Colonel Swayne's regiment was a part, found the road obstructed by trees, but soon cleared the way and built a corduroy road and bridge, and was soon across the river on the east side. On reaching the road leading to Bruxton Bridge General Mower developed the enemy in force, and the bridge, a long one over the Salkahatchie, he found the enemy had destroyed. Mower pushed on rapidly up the river to River's Bridge, about five miles above, and prevented

the enemy from destroying it, but was met by a furious discharge of musketry and artillery, and here it was that Colonel Swayne fell, being hit by a piece of shell which made necessary the amputation of his leg. At the time he was directly under the eye and orders of General Mower, who in speaking of this says: "After saving the bridge, I ordered the Forty-third Ohio Veteran Infantry to move in and take position on the right of the road. While showing Colonel Swayne his position a piece of shell struck him in the leg rendering amputation necessary, which deprived me of the services of a very brave and valuable officer."

In his letter to me General O. O. Howard pays this tribute to General Swayne: "On February 2nd, 1865, near River's Bridge, I wrote a letter to General Sherman. This letter contained this clause. 'General Mower succeeded in preventing the rebels from destroying the bridge (River's Bridge across Salkahatchie), but discovered an earthwork upon the other shore with two pieces of artillery bearing upon the road; the rebels opened fire as soon as our men appeared. Colonel Wager Swayne of the Forty-third Ohio, commanding brigade, lost his leg.' That morning, February 2nd, 1865, I was moving towards the front near the head of the second marching division, when Colonel Swayne was brought near to me, as I remember it, upon an army stretcher, possibly it was a roughly made support put together with boards and joists, as some of his friends say. The shell, or fragment of a shell, which had so badly injured his leg had left it in a fearful state. We were in a grove of pines at the time, and I thought that I could ease the position of his limb

while the bearers were resting, as I took several piney burrs of large size and straightening the limb held it in position with the burrs, as you would prevent a gun from rolling. What I did seemed to give Colonel Swayne immediate relief. He looked up into my face with a pleasant smile, beaming expression, and said substantially 'The Lord sustains me.' I have often said and fully believe that that expression was a key to his whole successful career and beautiful life. While he was as fearless as a man could well be, he always leaned strongly upon the arm of the Lord. His faith was simple, but was undoubting and unvaried. Integrity best expresses the character of the man. That remark 'The Lord sustains me,' in the midst of extreme peril, when there was hardly a chance for life to continue, impressed me so strongly that just as soon as I found that he would be willing to accept a position in my organization of the Freedmen's Bureau, I sought and obtained his assignment to the Commissionership of Alabama in 1865."

On being wounded he was carried back to Savannah in an ambulance, with an escort of cavalry, and thence by steamer to New York, where after a long time he recovered.

On March 8th, 1865, he was made a Brigadier-General of United States Volunteers, and on June 20th, 1865, he was appointed Major-General, U. S. V., and on July 26th, 1865, he reported for duty at Montgomery as Assistant Commissioner of the State of Alabama of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands. In speaking of his services in this difficult position, Whitelaw Ried, in his "Ohio in the War" says: "Here, through the manifold

troubles of the reorganization, General Swayne continued to bear himself no less honorably than in the field. Recognizing clearly for what he had fought, and fully resolved that no act of his should help to cheat the nation out of the fruits of its victory, he steadily cast his influence in favor of impartial justice and equality before the law for all. The efforts of the party which sought to give these principles punctual recognition in the reorganization, found in him a firm supporter. He was prominent in their public meetings, and soon became a civil as well as a military power in Alabama."

In his letter to me, General O. O. Howard says of General Swayne's work: "For nearly two years General Swayne had the management of nearly everything connected with the affairs of Alabama. As soon as the new Governor was appointed by President Andrew Johnson, General Swayne went to him and made him his friend. A little later he came to command the State in addition to his bureau duties as Military Governor. His thorough knowledge of the law, his splendid diplomatic ability, his high character and Christian courtliness enabled him in reality to lead my other Assistant Commissioners in rehabilitating the State so that the whites and the freemen could live together in comparative peace and prosperity. It would take a volume to set forth what he did. After relieving want and establishing good schools, he first saw to it that the negroes testimony should be received in all the courts of that State. This ended, he worked out in a wonderful way against a prejudice and an opposition of a most pronounced character.

General Swayne, contrary to his first expectations, a

little later found the Alabama legislators anything but fair and just. He, General Swayne, said: 'The vagrant law of Alabama operates most iniquitously upon the freemen. In terms the law makes no distinction on account of color, but in practice the distinction is invariable. I am satisfied that the law would be annulled if fairly tested. I have taken up three cases under it by habeas corpus, but in every case the persons were discharged for information in the commitment without reaching the merits of the case.' So many grievances occurred that even Swayne, with whom the good Governor sought to co-operate, was forced to re-establish bureau courts in several of the worst localities.

The "Swayne School" and also the "Emerson School" at Montgomery, Alabama, not now found in the United States School Reports, were absorbed in the newer "State Normal School for Colored Students," which gives an aggregate enrollment for 1896 of 809 pupils and 20 teachers. General Swayne, my diligent and able Assistant Commissioner, aided these schools in every possible way.

The Talladega Alabama Normal School began about the same time as that at Tougalos, under the same patronage, and having General Swayne's active and efficient aid. Its name was soon changed to college. In 1869 there were 2 teachers and 70 scholars. In 1896 we find Talladega College in full and active operation. The total enrollment was 577 students, coming from seven states. There are 23 in the body of officers and instructors.

Just before he died he told me some of the details of his operations and felt prouder of his work then and there than at any period of his life.

You and he were always fast friends; so he and I have been from the first meeting with him in the war till unconsciousness of the last few days separated us.

When my own last hour shall come I hope that I shall be as well prepared for a peaceful entrance into the coming life as he was.

Very sincerely yours,

O. O. HOWARD."

On July 28th, 1866, General Swayne was commissioned as Colonel of the Forty-fifth Infantry, U. S. A., and on March 2nd, 1867, was brevetted Major-General, United States Army, for gallant and meritorious services during the war. He was retired July 1st, 1870.

Since General Swayne's death, I have received a letter from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, dated December 23rd, 1902, written by Colonel Charles Morton, who was a comrade of General Swayne's in the war. In this letter Colonel Morton says: "The first time I met him after my return from the Santiago campaign was in front of the Fifth Avenue Hotel. I was getting off and he on a Broadway car. I met him in the door, he on his crutches. He let the car wait, and throwing his arms around me, exclaimed God bless you! I am glad to see you back alive. I helped him off the car.

He finally asked me to send him any recommendations I might have, and a comprehensive synopsis of my service. I did so, and he recommended me for a Colonelcy in the regular army. When I met him again he asked me if I had received the appointment. I told him I had not; that I had not received any advancement; that I was on the Pacific Ocean when the

colonels of volunteers were appointed. He touched his bell and a stenographer appeared, and he commenced to dictate a letter to President Roosevelt, asking him to appoint me a Brigadier General. I finally demurred, telling him that no one could enjoy or appreciate being a General better than myself, but my friendly relations were such with the President (we were together two days under fire at Santiago) that I could not ask him a favor; that I did not want him to think I was asking a favor, or importuning him in any way, and while I appreciated the kindness of his heart sincerely, I would prefer he would not send the letter. He said: "Your friendly relations with the President have nothing to do with my relations with him, and I am writing this solely upon my own part". He firmly disavowed my having anything to do with its dictation and sent it. I thanked him for his sincere interest in me, and great kindness. He tried to dismiss the subject, and finally said: when I got up this morning I wondered if I could be of any good or benefit to myself or anyone that day, and that my call had furnished the opportunity, and I had really done him a favor besides giving him the pleasure of my call. For many years I had regarded him as the great citizen of our country. Disinterested except for the best interest of our country, simply a great, pure, patriotic citizen. From all of which you may infer my feelings on reading of his death."

After the war General Swayne returned to Toledo, where he took up the practice of law, and became attorney for one of the competing telegraph lines with which I was connected, and won such great victories for it against the Western Union Company, which was

all powerful then, that he was brought by those interests to New York. Of course when he reached here our old friendship was renewed, and we were intimately together in both social and business ways. He was my personal attorney, and also attorney for several of the roads with which I was connected, and it has always been one of the great pleasures of my life in New York to be with him.

It is a singular fact that the very last time I met him General O. O. Howard and myself were in the Union League Club together when General Swayne came in, and we all three dined together. Swayne seemed to be at his best, and was saying kind things of Howard and myself, and told us some instances where the old soldiers said kind things of us, and some things that had been said that were not so kind, but all interesting to us, and much of it new, as it had passed out of our memories. We remained there talking until every person in the dinning room had left. When we rose from the table and were going out one of the gentlemen who had been dining there came to me and said: "We have all been watching the earnestness with which General Howard, General Swayne and yourself have been talking, and we all wished that it had been possible for us to have been listeners to what you had to say, for we know it would have been of great interest. We could see that you were talking about old times "

During all his later life the great interest he has taken in the old soldiers is well known to you, and his being so long Commander of the New York Commandery gave every one of you an opportunity to meet, greet and know him, and I do not hesitate to say

that he had something more than your respect. I believe that every one of you had a great affection for him. Whenever he spoke to you he had something new and interesting, and he never tired of saying kind words of you, and of all old soldiers, and doing what he could for them. Perhaps no one knew him more intimately than I did. I saw him in camp, on the march, in battle, in the trials, annoyances and hardships that come to a good soldier. He never complained; he was always looking out for his men, anxious only for them. I have seen his regiment on short rations, without proper clothing and many of them bare-footed, but not a growl or a grumble came from them; they knew they would be cared for as soon as the necessities of their long marching were over, and their love and confidence in their commander was shown when they almost unanimously veterinized in December, 1863. In the war he was the same modest, unassuming but clear-headed and deliberate officer that you have seen here in civil life.

He held a commanding position here in New York, and as a leader in public matters he came quickly to the front of best performance, and maintained the highest standard throughout his career. In social life, benevolent and church connections he was always trusted and beloved. As a soldier, a scholar, a lawyer and above all as a consistent Christian gentleman, he had endeared himself to all of us, and all who met and knew him. In all the walks of life he was a credit and great honor to this Commandery and to our Country.







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